

## VIVASVĀN I. The Sun.

1) *General information.* Sūrya (Sun) has a large number of synonyms. But prominence is given to two of them, Mārtaṇḍa and Vivasvān in the Purāṇas. Twelve devas were born to Prajāpati Kaśyapa by his wife Aditi. As these twelve were the sons of Aditi they were called Ādityas. The Dvādaśādityas (the twelve Ādityas) are Viṣṇu, Śakra, Aryaman, Dhātā, Tvaṣṭā, Pūṣā Vivasvān, Savitā, Mitra, Varuṇa, Amśu and Bhaga. These twelve Ādityas were, in the previous Manvantara (Age of Manu) of Manu Cākṣuṣa, twelve Devas called the Tuṣitas. When the Cākṣuṣa Manvantara came to an end and the Vaivasvata Manvantara was about to begin, the twelve Tuṣitas met together and after a consultation, they took birth as the sons of Aditi. In this birth they were known by the name Dvādaśādityas. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa 1, Chapter 15).

2) *The name Mārtaṇḍa.* As Aditi was pregnant, Candra went to the hermitage asking for alms. Due to her difficulties of pregnancy Aditi was not in a position to rise up instantly and greet the visitor. Candra thought that it was due to disrespect. So he cursed her. Let the child in your womb die." At this Aditi became miserable. Kaśyapa saw her crying incessantly and asked for the cause. Aditi told him all that had happened. Kaśyapa blessed her and said that the infant would not die. Thus the child which was lying dead in the womb came to life again. As the 'anḍa' (egg-embryo) of Vivasvān went mṛta (died) by the curse of Candra, he came to be called Mārtaṇḍa (he who has anḍa which has become mṛta). When the child was born he was given the name Vivasvān.

3) *Family life.* Vivasvān married Samjñā, the daughter of Viśvakarmā. The first child born to Vivasvān by Samjñā was Vaivasvata Manu. The Sūrya (Solar) dynasty begins from this Vaivasvata Manu. Samjñā again gave birth to two children Yama and Yamī. Then finding it difficult to bear the fierce brightness of the sun Samjñā gave her place to her maid Chāyā otherwise called Savarṇā, and went to the house of her father. Viśvakarmā did not like this action on the part of his daughter. So Samjñā took the form of a mare and went to the pastures of North Kuru. Thinking Chāyā to be his wife Samjñā, Vivasvān went to bed with her. She conceived and gave birth to two sons and a daughter. The sons were named Sāvārṇi and Śani and the daughter was named Tapatī. Chāyā loved her own children more. The children of Samjñā were grieved at this. Yama once lifted his leg to kick her. "Let that leg be broken." Chāyā cursed him. The miserable Yama ran to his father and said. "Father, this mother hates us and loves Sāvārṇi and Śani more. It is true that I lifted up my leg. But my leg did not touch mother's head. Father, I request you to pardon the wrong I have done because of my ignorance. Have pity on me and tell me how to save my leg from breaking." Vivasvān said to Yama that his leg would not be broken, but because of the curse worms would bite his leg. Vivasvān understood that Chāyā was not the real mother. He went to Viśvakarmā. Viśvakarmā put Vivasvān on his turning machine and by turning lessened his brightness. Vivasvān who was made more handsome by turning, found out his wife Samjñā, and approached her. But thinking him to be somebody else she moved away from him. In the meanwhile two male persons were born from the nostrils of

Samjñā. There is another story that these two persons were the Aśvinidevas. Vivasvān and Samjñā came home. As a retribution for the wrong he had done, Yama ruled over his subjects justly and earned the name Dharmarāja. (Vāmana Purāṇa, Chapter 21; Bhaviṣya Purāṇa, Chapter 47; Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 171).

4) *Some details about Vivasvān.* (i) In Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 3, the 108 names of Vivasvān are given.

(ii) Vivasvān lived in this world and defeated all his enemies. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 315, Stanza 19).

(iii) Vivasvān performed sacrifice in strict accordance with the instructions given in the Vedas and gave as Dakṣiṇā (gift) to the priest, Prajāpati Kaśyapa, the southern quarter. From that day onwards the south got the name Dakṣiṇadiśā. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 109, Stanza 1).

(iv) In days of yore Mahāviṣṇu advised Vivasvān "Anaśvaratākarma-yoga". Vivasvān advised this art to his son Vaivasvata Manu. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 28, Stanza 1).

(v) Vivasvān is included among the twentyeight Prajāpatis. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 334, Stanza 36).

(vi) He learned from Mahāviṣṇu Sātvatadharmā and taught his son Vaivasvata Manu the same in Tretāyuga. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 343, Stanza 50).

(vii) The Aśvinikumāras, Nāsatya and Dasra, are the sons of Vivasvān. They were born through the nose of his wife Samjñā (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 150, Stanza 17).

VIVASVĀN II. An asura. Mention is made in Mahābhārata. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 105, Stanza 12, that this asura was killed by Garuḍa.

VIVASVĀN III. An eternal god concerned with offerings to the Manes. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 91, Stanza 31).

VIVASVĀN IV. The first human being who performed sacrifice. This Vivasvān is considered to be the father of Manu and Yama. (R̥gveda 8. 52; 10; 14, 16). In Taittiriyasamhitā, mention is made that people of the earth are the children of this Vivasvān. (Taittirīya Samhitā, 6.5. 6).

VIVIDA. An asura who was the follower of Kaṁsa. It is mentioned in Bhāgavata, Skandha 10, that the asuras Pralambaka, Cānūra, Tr̥ṇāvarta, Muṣṭika, Ariṣṭaka, Keśī, Dhenuka, Agha, Vivida and some others had been the followers of Kaṁsa who caused havoc among the people.

VIVIKTA. A king of Kuśadvīpa. He was the son of Hiraṇyareta. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 5).

VIVIMŚA. The son of king Viṁśa of the Solar dynasty. Viṁśa had fifteen sons beginning with Khanīnetra. (M.B. Aśvamedhika Parva, Chapter 4).

VIVIMŚATI. A son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. The following information about him is given in Mahābhārata.

(i) This prince was present at the Svayaṁvara marriage of Draupadī.

(ii) He was caught hold of and bound by the Gandharvas in Dvaitavana (a forest). (See under Ghoṣayātrā).

(iii) In the battle between the Virāṭas and the Kauravas following the stealing of cows, this Vivimśati, was defeated by Arjuna. He ran away from the battle-field. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 61, Stanza 43).